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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/762,694 04/06/01 HACKER

E 514413-3866

EXAMINER

CLARDE, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED:

09/25/01

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HM22/0925

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762,694

Applicant(s)

Hacker et al

Examiner

Mark Clardy

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 9, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 7 20) ☐ Other:

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Claims 11-20 are pending in this application has been filed under 35 USC 371 as a national stage application of PCT/EP99/05799, filed August 10, 1999. This application possesses unity of invention under 37 CFR 1.475 (MPEP 1850, 1893.03(d)).

Applicants' claims are drawn to uses of herbicide combinations (claims 11-16), herbicidal compositions (claims 18-20), and herbicidal methods of use (claim 17), comprising:

A. One or more herbicidal agents selected from:

1. Phosphinothricin derivatives: bilanafos or glufosinate (A1.2)
2. Glyphosate (A2.2)
3. Imidazolinones

B. An additional herbicidal agent¹:

1. Ethofumesate (B1.1), chloridazon, triflurosulfuron (B1.3), metamiltron (B1.4)
2. Desmedipham (B2.1), phenmedipham (B2.2), quinmerac (B2.3), clopyralid (B2.4)
3. Quizalofop, fenoxaprop (B3.2), fluazifop, haloxyfop (B3.4), cyhalofop, clodinafop, propaquizafop
4. Sethoxydim (B4.1), cycloxydim (B4.2), clethodim.

The data presented in the specification demonstrates synergistic effects for several combinations of A1 or A2 with the additional herbicidal components. No test data has been presented for the imidazolinones (A3).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

¹Excluded: A1 or A2 + propaquizafop or clodinafop;
A2 + triflurosulfuron, metamiltron, chloridazon or clopyralid

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After the definition of the (B4) group, the claims refers to "groups (B0) to (B4)", but there is no (B0) group in the claim.

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter, i.e., the use of a composition. These claims have not been further treated on the merits..

Claims 18-20 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 19-20 of copending Application No. 09/762,673. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by Flint et al (US 6,239,072).

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Flint et al teach the combination of glyphosate with several of applicants' secondary herbicides for use in controlling weeds and volunteer crop plants in transgenic glyphosate resistant crops.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flint et al. This patent has been discussed above, and discloses applicants' compounds and the method of treating weeds in glyphosate resistant crops with compositions comprising glyphosate and the secondary herbicides claimed herein.

Thus it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined glyphosate and the secondary herbicides because it was known to add such secondary herbicides to glyphosate compositions for the control of volunteer, glyphosate resistant crop plants in other glyphosate resistant crops. Further, it is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose in order to form a third composition that is to be used for the very same purpose; the idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069.

No claim is allowed.

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This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103c and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Mark Clardy whose telephone number is (703) 308-4550.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Mark Clardy", is positioned above the printed name.

S. Mark Clardy
Primary Examiner
AU 1616

September 24, 2001